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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/786,465

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Lee Bolduc

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RYAN KROMHOLZ & MANION, S.C.
POST OFFICE BOX 26618
MILWAUKEE, WI 53226

EXAMINER

RYCKMAN, MELISSA K

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/786,465	Applicant(s) BOLDUC ET AL.	
	Examiner MELISSA RYCKMAN	Art Unit 3773	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 September 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 32-39 and 44 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 37 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 32- 36,38,39 and 44 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>3/18/08</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim 48 has been withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on 9/19/08.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 32- 36,38,39 and 44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ahmed (U.S. Patent No. 5,320,630).

Claim 32:

Ahmed teaches a motor-driven tool for applying an implantation force to a fastener sized and configured for implantation in tissue in response to an implantation force applied according to prescribed conditions, the motor-driven tool comprising a tool body (entire apparatus as seen in Fig. 10), a driven motor (72) carried in the tool body, a driven member (52, Fig. 3) coupled to the drive motor, the driven member being carried by the tool body and being operable to apply the implantation force (Fig. 3) during operation of the drive motor, a carrier (40) on the driven member (52) to couple the fastener to the driven member to transfer the implantation force from the driven member to the fastener (Fig. 3), a motor control unit (74) carried in the tool body (entire

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apparatus of Fig. 10) and being coupled to the drive motor (Fig. 10), the motor control unit being conditioned to operate the drive motor in phases (col. 9, ll. 33-35) including an initial phase operating the carrier to transfer the implantation force to the fastener (Fig. 3) under conditions than are short of the prescribed conditions so that the fastener remains coupled to the carrier, a lull phase commencing automatically (this is inherent) at the end of the initial phase interrupting operation of the carrier, and a final phase operating the carrier under conditions that supplement the conditions of the initial phase to achieve the prescribed conditions to release the fastener from the carrier and implant the fastener in tissue (Figs. 8 and 9), the motor control unit requiring, after automatically entering the lull phase, a prescribed final phase command to advance from the lull phase to the final phase (the phases occur as described during certain surgeries col. 7, ll. 32-35).

Claims 33 and 34:

Ahmed teaches the prescribed command is based on input from an operator and upon input reflecting a sensed operating condition (col. 7, ll. 32-35).

Claim 35:

Ahmed teaches the driven member is also operable to apply a removal force to withdraw the fastener from tissue (Fig. 7, when rotating the fastener in place the fastener can be rotated the opposite way so the fastener will not be successfully placed), and wherein the motor control unit includes a removal phase operating the carrier (col. 7, ll. 32-35) to transfer the removal force (Fig. 7) to the fastener, the motor control unit requiring, after automatically entering the lull phase, a prescribed removal

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phase command different than the prescribed final phase command to advance from the lull phase to the removal phase.

Claim 36:

Ahmed teaches the driven member is rotated in one direction to transfer the implantation force (Fig. 3) and rotated in an opposite direction to apply the removal force (Fig. 3).

Claims 38 and 39:

Ahmed teaches the tool body includes a tube (27) that carries the driven member and the carrier (Fig. 3) and the driven member is rotated (Fig. 3) to apply the implantation force.

Claim 44:

Ahmed teaches coupling a fastener to the driven member, accessing a tissue region, operating the motor-driven member during the initial phase to partially implant the fastener in the tissue region (col. 7, ll. 32-35 and col. 9, ll. 33-35), deciding during the lull phase to commence the final phase, entering the prescribed command to advance from the lull phase to the final phase (col. 4, ll. 62), thereby completing the implantation of the fastener in the tissue region.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to the claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MELISSA RYCKMAN whose telephone number is (571)272-9969. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday 7:30-4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jackie Ho can be reached on (571)-272-4696. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

MKR

/Melissa Ryckman/
Examiner, Art Unit 3773

/(Jackie) Tan-Uyen T. Ho/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3773